

# March Newsletter 2021

## First Profession, March 25, 2021



### CONTENTS

- Profession
- Foundation Day
- Sri Lankan Independence Day
- Young Brothers Retreat at Kalutara
- Profession Retreat
- Lunar New Year
- Holiday in Bandarawella
- Christmas Celebrations
- Holiday at Kalutara

## Religious Profession (& Renewal of Vows), March 25, Tudella, Sri Lanka 2021 (by Br Tran Ngoc Gioan)

With great joy and gratitude, we celebrated the First Profession of our Brothers on the Feast of the Annunciation. We were three novices from East Timor and one from Viet Nam:

Br Adelino Soares fms

Br Gaspar Te'un fms

Br Trần Ngọc Gioan fms

Br Isac De Jesus Quintão fms

We chose the theme: "For I know the plans I have for you." (Jer 29:11)

And there were some young Brothers who also renewed their vows on this day, four from Sri Lanka and six from Viet Nam:

Br W.M.M Sasmika Fernando fms

Br Sheron Shanaka Ranaweera fms

Br Dulai Chaturanga Fernando fms

Br H. A. Pradeep Kumara fms

Br Lê Văn Duy fms

Br Bùi Văn Đức fms

Br Lê Danh Hải fms

Br Trần Long fms

Br Lê Văn Nghị fms

Br Nguyễn Văn Phúc fms



Due to the Covid situation, we only invited a few guests. We invited one of our Spiritual Directors, Father George Fernando SJ, to be our main celebrant, and Brothers and some teachers attended from communities and ministries that we participated in during our 3 month ACEP (Apostolic Community Experience Program).

Our local Lay Marists gathered around us, supporting us, as we pronounced our vows, and through it all we had a wonderful celebration in unity and love. As we continue on our vocation journey still many uncertain things are going to happen, , but as we put our trust into God's plan we can go ahead to follow Christ as Mary did, to make Jesus known and loved.



Bro.Duc

2/1/2021

## Foundation Day

Wherever we go, we set our feet in new places, in any region of the world. We discover new lands, with promises of a new vision, but we still remember our place of origin, the root of our spirit, a place to recall, to re-feel the feeling of the early brothers with

Father Champagnat. That is our Lavalla, the foundation of the Institute here for us. This year we celebrated Foundation Day internally, due to the restrictions of the pandemic. Even though it was celebrated internally we still

felt the spirit and company of Fr Champagnat and the first brothers, with attentiveness, sensitivity, and joy.



Bro.Adelino

## Sri Lankan Independence Day

We celebrated Sri Lankan Independence Day last month on 4<sup>th</sup> of February. We were very happy in that celebration because it was organized by the Sri Lankan Brothers in our own community and next door, the Hermitage community. Particularly we would like to thank Br Chinthana, for all his organising. He brought different traditional objects to display for us. So, all of us in the community were really happy to be involved and we supported the brothers by doing the decorations in the chapel and the dining room. As well, at the start of the evening we had a Mass with a Sri Lankan theme, plus at this time we welcomed Br Godfrey to our community. [photo: *Br Remy sharing some of Br Godfrey's story with us.*]



Homily  
From  
Brother  
Remy

# Temporary Professed Brothers' Retreat (by Br Tran Long )

The young Brothers, together with Br Rod Thomson, went on a two-day retreat at Kalutara, Sri Lanka. The retreat reflections, led by Br. Rod were based on our previous discussion about MDA's future sustainability. It was a great moment for us as young Brothers to spend these days reflecting on our personal dreams as a young Brother and dreams for a sustainable MDA as a whole. As a result, we were able to sit

down together to share our dreams and to see the possibility as a group of young Brothers in promoting a sustainable MDA. "If you want to go fast, walk alone; if you want to go far, walk together." (African Proverb) Let us pray and hope together for a sustainable MDA. God, Mother Mary and Fr. Champagnat be with us always.



# Profession retreat by Bro. Isac

Kandy

Time is approaching to our first profession. As we are novices, four of us Adelino, Gaspar, Gioan, and Isac we did our 10 days retreat in Kandy, from 26 February to 7 of March 10, 2021. It seemed to us a wonderful

moment to reflect on ourselves along with Jesus in desert particularly in this season of lent. We are filled a lot of joys and blessings during 10 days. Our retreat was directed by Father Bayon JS.

We took picture together with sisters and Father before we left retreat house to the Novitiate.



# Lunar New Year Br.Hai

Last February 12th, our community celebrated Lunar New Year, in line with the Vietnamese Brothers in Sri Lanka and people in different countries who celebrated the same day.



Eucharistic celebration

12 / 02 / 2021



Making "Chung cake"

## Holiday in Bandarawela (Bro. Phuc)

Now I will write about some experiences when I stayed in Bandarawella with my lovely brothers Long, Duc, Duy, Sales and me. We enjoyed being together there and we visited many places as well. And I spent time relaxing and enjoying nature. I am thankful for our community who gave us a moment to relax in that moment. It was a beautiful time for us. I just blew myself to the fresh air and wonderful weather there as well, and I hope I can go there another time for more.



## Christmas Celebrations, (Mateus)

During Christmas time, we prepared decorations around the house and also inside the chapel. We went together to Kalutara for one week holiday. So, we were really happy to celebrate together this Christmas time because no one could travel out to his own country because of Covid 19.



## Beach Vacation Bro Gaspar



I really enjoyed my vacation at Kalutara. It was a wonderful moment for me and I felt more relaxed. Even we cooked by ourselves, but the food tasted more delicious than in a restaurant. I am so happy with the fraternity that we had in our community by playing different games, swimming, seeing movies and singing. On the last day after breakfast I went out with two of my friends around the lake to take some pictures around the city.

